



Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Friday
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OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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GOVERNOR'S 2006 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

May Christmas time in our island home be surrounded by the love of family and friends and filled with the genuine spirit of the Birth of Jesus Christ – Our Original Christmas Gift. As a people, we are truly blessed with the Message of the Messiah.

In the Words of Micah, may we all live honorably, walk humbly, and give abundant thanks to the Lord for our many blessings this holiday season.

To all the sons and daughters of American Samoa protecting our freedom, we send our deepest personal wishes for a happy holidays and your safe return home. You are forever in our hearts and prayers.

“There is hope for your future, says the Lord. Your children will come again to their own land.” – Jeremiah 31:17.

Mary, Lieutenant Governor Ipulasi, Mrs. Elisapeta Sunia and all of our children and our grandchildren join me in saying: From our families to yours, best wishes for a wonderful Christmas. May the New Year renew our faith and bring peace, happiness, and good health. God Bless you and God Bless American Samoa.

Ia manuia le Kerisimasi ma le Tausaga Fou
2007.

Soifua ma is manuia,

Togiola Tulafono
Governor



Mauga o Ali'i Government House 2006

The newly renovated Government House on Mauga o Ali'i.

Governor Togiola announces one-day Open House and tours of Government House on Mauga o Ali'i for the holidays, Monday Dec. 18th 12noon to 6pm

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono announced the official Open House for Government House on Mauga o Ali'i for Monday, December 18th from 12noon to 6pm.

Governor Togiola said the restoration and renovation of Government House is now completed and it is time to invite the public to view its rebirth.

“The Mauga o Ali'i Government House has been restored to its former glory, and it gives me great pleasure to invite the public for the Open House to tour this magnificent historical building of the Territory,” said Governor Togiola. “We endeavored to renovate and rebuild this jewel of our history so that it will endure another 103 years. It's time to give thanks and praise to God for allowing us this great opportunity re-dedicate this ‘proud house’ for American Samoa today and tomorrow in the spirit of its glorious past.”

Governor Togiola said at this time during the holiday season, only one-day day has been scheduled for Open House and tours of Government House on Mauga o Ali'i and that is this coming Monday for six hours beginning at 12noon until 6pm.

Governor Togiola said the Department of Public Works crew who performed the refurbishing work placed great importance to the past history of the building and it was an aim to respect the spirit of the original structure.

The history of Government House is described in the publication “The Past Surrounds Us - Historic Preservation in American Samoa” by John Enright and the Staff of the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office as follows:

“Government House was built in a turn-of-the-century architectural style called Tropical Victorian Military Greek Revival. It was built by the U.S. Navy in 1903 for \$15,000. It was built by Samoan workers under the supervision of Naval architects and two skilled mainland carpenters. It was built to be the residence of the Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila.

Togotogo Ridge in Utulei (already renamed Observatory Point by the Navy) was leveled and graded from eighty-five feet to sixty feet in elevation as a site for the residence.

Government House was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1991. The building has required constant maintenance, but it has thus far weathered all the earthquakes and hurricanes thrown at it.”



**Merry Christmas
and Sappy New Year!!**

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On December 16, 1902, Captain Uriel Sebree completed his term as American Samoa's second naval governor (since November 27, 1901).

On December 16, 1902, Lieutenant Commander Henry Minett became American Samoa's third naval governor (acting: until May 5, 1903).

On December 17, 1925, in American Samoa, the Lau'li'i-Faga'itua portion of the "William McKinley Memorial Road" was completed at a cost of \$24,098. Chief Le'iato held a celebration and feast at Faga'itua to commemorate the event.

On December 17, 1942, the U.S. Marine Corps' 1st Replacement Battalion arrived in American Samoa.

On December 18, 1900, the chiefs of Tutuila congratulated U.S. President William McKinley on his re-election, and expressed their admiration for Governor Benjamin Franklin Tilley, saying "...you gave us a leader, a Governor, a High Chief, whom we have learned to love and respect." The Reverend Ebenezer Vicesimus Cooper of the London Missionary Society added his praise, writing that "I cannot conceive of your finding a better man to represent your government in such delicate matters as must always be associated with the task of 'annexing' than Commander Tilley."

On December 19, 1968, in a letter to Secretary of the Interior-Designate Walter J. Hickel, Seattle publisher (*Marine Digest*) and Republican stalwart John Morse Haydon asked to be considered for the governorship of American Samoa. He had earlier expressed interest in being High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and in the governorship of Guam, but decided against it. Washington's Democratic Senator Henry M. ("Scoop") Jackson felt that there would be a political controversy generated by the appointment of "a Caucasian" to that post, in view of Guam's upcoming gubernatorial election (its first) in 1970. Mr. Haydon felt that American Samoa's climate would be good for Mrs. (Jean P.) Haydon's health. (She was suffering from lung cancer).

On December 20, 1940, Admiral Harold Raynsford Stark, Chief of Naval Operations, directed the Governor of American Samoa, Captain Laurence Wild, to make suggestions for the establishment of "a Native Insular Force, not to exceed 500 men, to be officered and trained by the U.S. Marine Corps, and to be employed ashore in Samoa, mainly as outposts and guards at beaches....The Governor replied by recommending the establishment of a Native Insular Force separate and distinct from the Fita Fita Guard, which was to function under and to be paid by the Government of American Samoa."

On December 21, 1940, the advance detachment of the U.S. Marine Corps' 7th Defense Battalion arrived in Tutuila.

On December 21, 1941, an Army tugboat towing a barge carrying refugees from Canton Island (in the Phoenix Islands) entered Pago Pago Harbor. The refugees were fleeing from a possible Japanese occupation.

On December 22, 1902, on Tutuila, the U.S. Government purchased "Parcel No. 22: Milo Milo," totalling 0.07 acres, from "Samia" for \$113.50; "Parcel No. 26: Laloifi," totalling 0.06 acres, from Mele Meredith for \$184.57; "Parcel No. 27: Utumoa," totalling 0.05 acres, from "Ifopo" for \$224.10; "Parcel No. 28: Lelotoa," from "Samia" for \$526.76; "Parcel No. 29: Faleulu," from "Tiumalu" for \$515.51, and "Parcel No. 30: Faletoi," comprised of 0.14 acres, from "Samia" for \$224.10."

On December 22, 1902, at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, the U.S. Government purchased the remaining portion of "Parcel No. 12: Church Site," totalling 0.23 acres, from "Ifopo" for \$224.10. (Please see the entry for July 11, 1900).

SEEDS Environmental Club Gains CPR Skills

By ASCC Staff

Several members of the American Samoa Community College's SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Development and Sustainability) club recently obtained their American Heart Association CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), First Aid and AED (automated external defibrillator) certification.

CPR, a combination of simulating the breathing of the lungs and the pumping of the heart, consists of two parts: Rescue Breathing and Chest Compressions. In Rescue Breathing, you exhale air from your lungs into the victim's lungs, so they can absorb oxygen. During a Chest Compression, you manually compress the heart by pressing down on the chest. When you let up on the chest, the heart expands. By compressing and expanding the heart, the blood should begin to once again flow through it.

The CPR and First-Aid learning sessions utilized Practice-While-Watching techniques, during which students practiced adult and/or child CPR and First-Aid skills as a video and instructor guided them through the necessary procedures. This method of CPR instruction increases CPR practice time, and research has proven its effectiveness when used to teach lifesaving CPR skills. Knowing how to give CPR can **double** a victim's chance of survival by maintaining vital blood flow to the heart and brain until the patient can receive more advanced care.

CPR does not guarantee the revival of an unconscious victim, but can keep oxygen flowing to his/her brain until a way to revive the victim is ready. During attempts at revival, the AED can be used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart. Built-in computers assess the patient's heart rhythm, judge whether defibrillation is needed, and if necessary administer the shock. The AED strengthens a victim's chances of survival by restoring a normal heart rhythm.

SEEDS student Daystar Parker commented, "Hopefully I will never have to use my new skills but if I need to I am prepared to save a life." American Heart Association instructor Jessica 'Tauiautusa stated that, "CPR can be just as vital as learning how to swim, or use self defense. Each of these skills can be used in everyday situations to help elongate life."

For more information on gaining CPR, First Aid and AED certification, contact our local American Heart Association or American Red Cross.

UH Reps Explain Tuition Changes to ASCC Administration

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

The University of Hawaii (UH), with its ten campuses of universities and community colleges spread across the 50th State, has long attracted a large number of transfer students from American Samoa as well as the other American Pacific territories. Like most universities, UH charges a significantly higher tuition for “non-resident” students from outside the State of Hawaii. However, for many years, students from the Pacific islands enjoyed the benefit of only having to pay “resident” tuition while attending UH, a favored status which, along with the close proximity of Hawaii to home, made UH a perfect choice for students from American Samoa.

When the UH Board of Regents announced a change in the tuition status of American Pacific students earlier this year, many of the Territory’s students and their parents reacted to the news with shock if not panic. Many continue to wonder: Will the higher costs now make UH unaffordable to students from American Samoa? “Not quite,” says Michael Rota, UH Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. For the last few weeks, Rota has traveled to the US Pacific territories to talk with educators about the new UH tuition structure, accompanied by American Samoa’s own Dr. Failautusi Avegalio, who now heads both the Pacific Business Center program and Minority Enterprise Development Center at the Shidler College of Business Administration on the UH Manoa campus.

Rota and Avegalio paid a visit to the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) earlier this week, and met with an administrative team led by Board of Higher Education Chairman Pemerika Tauiliili and Vice President Dr. Seth Galea’i. The visitors from Hawaii explained that the move to re-evaluate the tuition structure began in the 1990s, when the State of Hawaii changed the law pertaining to UH funding, which led the UH Board of Regents to develop a plan whereby the University would over time decrease its reliance on the State. “UH serves a total of around 50,000 students on an operating budget of approximately \$100 million a year,” says Rota. “The State still pays 80% of that because Hawaii values education, but you can see how, as times demand that government pay closer attention to its expenditures, the State would want the University to take on a greater share of the costs.” A number of universities and community colleges in the American Pacific have adopted similar tuition strategies, which place more emphasis on federal rather than state resources for students who need to meet their education costs.

Rota explained that effective in fall 2007, UH policy will require that students from the Pacific islands pay 150% of resident tuition. To off-set the impact for students with demonstrated financial needs, the UH Board of Regents recently established a new Opportunity Grant Program (OGP). Following formal admission, students eligible for financial aid will automatically receive a UH OGP scholarship which will help them meet the increased tuition. In addition to the OGP, Pacific students can access a number of additional scholarships available to cover attendance at UH Manoa, UH Hilo, and the other campuses of the statewide system. Students can find these scholarships and other financial aid information for UH listed online.

When asked about the most cost-effective method for American Pacific students to complete their studies at UH, the Hawaii visitors recommended that first these students should try and earn the highest degree they can from the community colleges in their home locations, as this will minimize the time they need to spend at higher costing institutions off-islands. Rota also shared with the ASCC team that students from the Territory who live in Hawaii for more than 12 months can qualify for resident status. “In order to prove residency in Hawaii for more than a year, you just have to indicate your intent to take up residency,” observed Avegalio. “As in most states, you can do this by several means, such as obtaining a drivers license or a local address, by registering to vote, and by paying local taxes as an employee. You can use a number of methods, but once you can establish that you’ve lived in the state for 12 months, then you qualify for resident tuition at UH.”

Rota and Avegalio said students and parents can find most if not all of the information they would need pertaining to tuition, residency, financial aid, and other aspects of attending UH posted online. For a full listing of scholarships for American Pacific students, go to: <http://www.uhf.hawaii.edu/scholarships/studentscholarships.aspx>. For information on gaining residency status in Hawaii, try: <http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/studentaffairs/admissions/residency-faq.php>. The UH visitors also scheduled meetings with Governor Togiola, the Department of Education, and local UH alumni before they departed just in time to make it home for Christmas.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS – BE SAFE!!!

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With:

Governor Togiola Tulafono

Saturdays @ 7a.m.

On:

Showers of Blessings - FM 104.7

Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

SHARE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

with our ASG workforce

as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

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